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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 002137

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SUBJECT: 2004-05 S.L. FULBRIGHT SENIOR SCHOLAR PROGRAM

1. OUT OF A TOTAL OF 28 APPLICANTS FOR THE SUBJECT AWARDS, THE US-SLFC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTERVIEWED 13 CANDIDATES SHORT LISTED FROM THE ORIGINAL POOL AND SELECTED THREE PRINCIPAL AND TWO ALTERNATE NOMINEES. OF THE THREE PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES, THE FIRST TWO, IN ORDER OF MERIT, WERE OFFERED 9 MONTH GRANTS WHILE THE THIRD WAS OFFERED A 3-MONTH GRANT.

2. GIVEN BELOW IS A RANK-ORDER LISTING OF THE NOMINEES RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE J.WILLIAM FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP BOARD.

A. DR. NEIL D. "FERNANDOPULLE", THE TOP-RANKED PRINCIPAL CANDIDATE ON THE PANEL OF FIVE, IS A SENIOR SCIENTIST AT GENETECH MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS AND SCHOOL OF GENE TECHNOLOGY - SRI LANKA'S FIRST PRIVATE BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE. FERNANDOPULLE'S PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT IS TITLED "A MOLECULAR ANTHROPOLOGY SURVEY OF THE SRI LANKAN POPULATION". FERNANDOPULLE'S PROJECT WILL FOCUS ON RECOGNIZING MITROCHONDIAL DNA AND Y-CHROMOSOME DNA IN HUMANS AS A RICH SOURCE OF GENETIC INFORMATION IN 2 IMPORTANT REGIONS OF STUDY, NAMELY, ANTHROPOLOGY AND FORENSIC MEDICINE.

B. DR. GAMEELA "SAMARASINGHE", SENIOR LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, IS THE SECOND-RANKED CANDIDATE ON THE PANEL OF FIVE. SAMARASINGHE'S RESEARCH PROJECT IS TITLED "DESIGNING PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS IN SRI LANKA: THE USE OF CONVENTIONAL MODELS OF COUNSELLING". DR. SAMARASINGHE'S PROPOSED RESEARCH IS A REACTION TO THE LACK OF DISCUSSION AND ANALYTICAL COMMENTARY ON WHETHER THE EURO-AMERICAN DISCOURSE ON "COUNSELLING" CAN BE EXPORTED TO SRI LANKA. COUNSELLING IS ONLY ONE PART OF A RANGE OF PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS WHICH EFFECTIVELY ENSURE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF DISTRESSED PERSONS AFFECTED BY CONFLICTS.

C. DR. DHARINI "SIVAKUMAR", A SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER AT THE AGRO AND FOOD TECHNOLOGY DIVISION OF THE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA AND THE THIRD-RANKED CANDIDATE ON THE PANEL OF FIVE, HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A SHORT-TERM FULBRIGHT AWARD. DR. SIVAKUMAR'S PROPOSED RESEARCH IS TITLED "DEVELOPMENT OF A CHITOSAN-BASED BIODEGRADABLE PACKAGING FILM/COATING FOR MINIMALLY PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES". THE OBJECTIVE OF DR. SIVAKUMAR'S PROJECT IS TO USE THE NOVEL CHARACTERS OF CHITOSAN TO SYNTHESIZE AN EDIBLE COATING WHICH HAS THE ABILITY TO ACT AS A PARTIAL BARRIER TO AIR/OXYGEN AND HUMIDITY, THEREBY RETARDING ETHYLENE PRODUCTION AND DISCOLORATION. DR. SIVAKUMAR PROPOSES TO CONDUCT THE FIRST PART OF HER RESEARCH IN SRI LANKA, AND CONTINUE WORK IN A U.S. LABORATORY. SIVAKUMAR HAS A LETTER OF INVITATION FROM DR. MARITAN CANTWELL, SPECIALIST ON MINIMAL PROCESSING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS, CALIFORNIA.

D. DR. KUSHAN UDAYANGE "TENNAKON", SENIOR LECTURER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY, UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, IS THE FIRST ALTERNATE CANDIDATE ON THE PANEL OF FIVE. TENNAKON'S RESEARCH PROJECT IS TITLED "ADAPTABILITY OF PIONEER PLANT SPECIES THAT COULD BE USED FOR THE RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED LANDS TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOOD OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SRI LANKA". DR. TENNAKON'S RESEARCH STUDY WILL PROVIDE INSIGHTS FOR THE USE OF PIONEER PLANT SPECIES IN MULTIPLE USE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA. TENNAKON PLANS TO DISSEMINATE HIS RESEARCH THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM TO THE FORESTRY AND WILD LIFE DEPARTMENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGO) WORKING WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON LAND REHABILITATION, FOREST RESTORATION AND FUEL WOOD PROGRAMS.

E. DR. MRS PRIYANI ASHOKA "PARANAGAMA" A SENIOR LECTURER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA, IS THE FIFTH CANDIDATE AND SECOND ALTERNATE ON THE PANEL OF FIVE. PARANAGAMA'S RESEARCH PROJECT IS TITLED "EVALUATION OF MULTI-RESIDUE METHODS FOR PRIORITY PESTICIDES IN FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND GRAINS USING SYSTEMATIC DETECTION METHODS". THERE

ARE NO REGISTERED POST-HARVEST TREATMENTS AND ESTABLISHED NATIONAL MAXIMUM RESIDUAL LEVELS (MRLS) FOR FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND STORED GRAINS IN SRI LANKA. DR. PARANAGAMA'S PROJECT AIMS AT SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESIDUAL LEVELS IN FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND GRAIN WITH A LIMITED SET OF RELIABLE AND COMPARABLE VALIDATED MULTI-RESIDUAL METHODS WHICH ALLOW THE MONITORING OF PRIORITY PESTICIDES IN FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND GRAINS.

13. COMPLETED DOSSIERS OF THE FIVE 2004-05 FULBRIGHT SENIOR SCHOLAR NOMINEES WILL BE SENT TO REACH CIES BY JANUARY 15, 2004. REGARDS.

LUNSTEAD